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DE RUEHRO #0649/01 1600811
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2186
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE IMMEDIATE 3651
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE 0060
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES IMMEDIATE 3837
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 000649

NOFORN
SIPDIS

TO THE PRESIDENT FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

EO 12958 DECL: 05/31/2019
TAGS PREL, PGOV, IT
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR ITALIAN PM BERLUSCONI'S JUNE 15
VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: A) ROME 97 B) MOSCOW 1273
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Classified By: Elizabeth L. Dibble, Charge d'Affaires, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

Summary

¶1. (C/NF) Mr. President, your meeting with Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi comes at a time when his closest advisors fear Italy is losing the cre
Berlusconi the Politician

¶2. (C/NF) Our relationship with Berlusconi is complex. He is vocally pro-American and has helped address our interests on many levels in a mar

¶3. (C/NF) His shortcomings notwithstanding, marginalizing Berlusconi would limit important cooperation with a key ally. Berlusconi is one of
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frequently unhelpful role for himself. Dealing with Berlusconi, therefore, requires a careful balance of close coordination with him and his ke

¶4. (C/NF) Italy held elections for the European Parliament on June 6 and 7, which reaffirmed Berlusconi's People of Liberty (PDL) party as Its
Economic Crisis

¶5. (C) Prudent (some would say stodgy) banking practices allowed Italy to avoid the global financial sector meltdown. Italy's banks simply did
G8
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¶6. (C/NF) Berlusconi's stewardship of his G8 Presidency has been marked by a proliferation of Ministerial and sub-ministerial meetings couplec
Guantanamo Detainees

¶7. (C/NF) Berlusconi welcomed your decision to close Guantanamo, and has publicly and repeatedly underscored Italy's desire to support the mov
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common EU framework that will open the door to individual country agreements with the U.S. While the junior partner in Berlusconi's coalition c
Russia

¶8. (C/NF) Dependence on Russian energy, lucrative and frequently nontransparent business dealings between Italy and Russia, and a close, persc
Energy

¶9. (C/NF) Berlusconi's close personal ties with Putin and the very strong corporate ties between Italian energy parastatal ENI and Russia's Ga

¶10. (C) The Berlusconi Government is pursuing plans to bring back nuclear power to Italy. U.S.-based companies Westinghouse and GE face stiff
Iran

¶11. (C/NF) With Italy frustrated by its exclusion from the P5-plus-1 negotiating circle, Berlusconi will highlight Italy's would-be role as ar
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Libya

¶12. (C/NF) Berlusconi has continued Italy's policy of developing an expanded relationship with Libya, largely in order to stem the tide of irr
A Partner in Security

¶13. (C/NF) Berlusconi has maintained a significant military commitment in Afghanistan (2,600 troops, mostly in Italy's Regional-Command West),

¶14. (C) Our shared security interests with Italy go beyond Afghanistan. U.S. facilities in Italy provide unmatched freedom of action and are c
Conclusion

¶15. (C/NF) The robust U.S.-Italian relationship provides us with major national security benefits in our military missions overseas, our own p